

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Official Action dated 3 December 2004. Responsive to the objections and rejections made in the Official Action, a substitute Abstract is provided; Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled and their limitations incorporated into currently amended independent Claim 1.

In the Office Action dated 3 December 2004, the Examiner objected to the Abstract for reasons of format and proper language. A substitute Abstract is provided herein that Applicant believes to be in accordance with U.S. P.T.O guidelines and thereby overcomes the Examiner's objections.

The Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Katzman (U.S. 4,463,248). The Examiner further rejected Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katzman in light of Terada (U.S. 4,942,874). The Examiner also indicated that Claims 3 through 11 "...*would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.*"

Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled and merged with independent Claim 1. Insofar as Applicant understands the Examiner's conditional Allowability of Claim 2 to support Applicant's belief that Claim 3 provides patentably distinguishable subject matter now incorporated into Claim 1, it is believed that currently amended Claim 1 has been put into

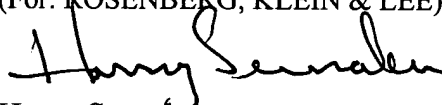
condition to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection. Claim 1 is thought to be allowable in its currently amended form and such action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to Claims 3 through 11 as depending on a rejected base claim. It is Applicant's belief that Claim 1 is now in allowable condition and therefore Claims 3 through 11 ought to be allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 1 now defines patentably distinguishable subject matter.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the fact that the Examiner has allowed Claims 12 through 20.

In light of the above amendments and arguments, Applicant is of the belief that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been answered and overcome, and that the subject Patent Application is in allowable condition. It is now Applicant's belief that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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